

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A locking device (1) for a selector lever (5) of a motor vehicle transmission, comprising a locking member (3) pivotally supported on a support structure (2), an adjustable locking element (4) supported by said support structure (2) for fixing said locking member (3) in a position locking said selector lever (5), a locking part (3.1) mounted resiliently on said locking member (3) so as to bear against said support structure (2) and engaging said selector lever (5), said locking part (3.1) being movable between at least two positions when the locking member (3) is in a locking position.

2. A device according to Claim 1, wherein said locking part (3.1) is spring biased to an end position adjacent said selector lever (5) so that said selector lever (5) is pivotable against the spring force of said locking part (3.1) permitting pivoting movement of the selector lever (5) against said spring force until said locking part (3.1) engages said support structure (2).

3. A device according to claim 2, wherein said locking part (3.1) is arranged between the selector lever (5) and said support structure (2) and the locking part (3.1) has a first bearing surface (3.3) for engaging said selector lever (5) and a second bearing surface (3.4) for engaging said support structure (2).

4. A device according to claim 1, wherein said locking part (3.1) is movably supported on said locking member (3).

5. A device according claim 1, wherein said locking part (3.1) is a sliding member supported on said locking member (3) and a spring element (3.2) is arranged between the locking member (3) and the locking part (3.1).

6. A device according to claim 3, wherein, in the fixed position of said locking member (3), said sliding part (3.1) is movable with a second bearing surface (3.4) thereof against a bearing surface (2.1) of the support structure (2).

7. A device according to claim 4, wherein the locking force acting on said locking member (3) by said selector lever (5) corresponds maximally to the force applied thereto by said spring element (3.2).

8. A device according to claim 1, wherein said locking member (3) is operatively connected to a means of locking the ignition lock such that an ignition key is held in the ignition lock when the locking member (3) is pivoted.

9. A device according to claim 6, wherein the bearing surfaces are lined in friction-reducing and impact-influencing manner.

10. A method for locking the selector lever (5) of a transmission comprising a locking device (1) for said selector lever (5), including a locking member (3) pivotally supported on a support structure (2), an adjustable locking element (4) supported by said support structure

(2) for fixing said locking member (3) in a position locking said selector lever (5), and a locking part (3.1) mounted resiliently on said locking member (3) so as to bear against said support structure (2) and engaging said selector lever (5), said locking part (3.1) being movable between at least two positions when the locking member (3) is in a locking position, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) moving the selector lever 5 at the beginning of a selection process, to bear against said locking part (3.1),
- b) pivoting said locking member (3) if it is in its unlocked, pivotable position by the selection movement of the selector lever (5),
- c) or, if said locking member (3) is to remain in its position fixed by the locking element (4), placing the locking member (3) by the pivoting movement of the selector lever (5), to bear against the selector lever (5) via the locking part (3.1), and
- d) by a further pivoting movement of the selector lever (5) moving the locking part (3.1), resiliently to bear against the support structure (2), while the locking member (3) is held in its fixed position.